GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:852
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2005
TASK FORCE REPORT ON TIGER RESERVES
Kurup Adv. Suresh

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the salient points of the report submitted to the Prime Minister by the Task Force constituted to review the management of Tiger Reserves in the country;

(b) the immediate and long term action plans suggested by the task force; and

(c) the plans of the Government to protect the tiger keeping in view the Indian environment where forests are not only wilderness but also the habitats of people?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) The key recommendations of the Tiger Task Force Report are as below:
(i) Reinvigorate the institutions governance.
(ii) Strengthen efforts geared towards protection of the tiger, checking poaching, convicting wildlife criminals and breaking the international trade network.
(iii) Expand the inviolate spaces for the tiger by minimising human pressure in these areas.
(iv) Repair the relationships with the people share the tiger`s habitat by building strategies for coexistence.
(v) Regenerate the forest habitats in the frings of the tiger`s protective enclaves by investing in forest, water and grassland economies of the people.

(b) The urgent actions (including long-term) recommended by Tiger Task Force which have been accepted for implementation are given in the enclosed Element.

(c) Eco-development for the benefit of local people living in and around tiger reserves and other protected sieas, has been included in Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Project Tiger` as well as `Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries` to elicit support for wildlife conservation.

Statement

Action has been taken on the following urgent commendations of the Task Force which were accepted br implementation:

1. Request the Prime Minister to head the Steering Committee of Project Tiger for a period of 2-3 years.

2. The Project Tiger Directorate to be converted into a statutory authority under the Ministry of Environment & Forests. This will give it greater autonomy and ability to coordinate with state governments.

3. The Wildlife Crime Bureau to be created immediately under the Ministry of Environment & Forests.

4. The next census (planned for November) of tigers and habitat to be done using the new methodology, suggested by Ministry of Environment & Forests and endorsed by the Tiger Task Force. Independent audit report also be presented to Parliament in 6 months, which will rate state performance on different criteria.

5. The plan for relocation of villages from key tiger habitats to be finalized within one year, with its financial and logistical implications and completed with 2-3 years.

6. The plan for coexistence to be prepared by each tiger reserve within one year so that benefits of conservation can be shared with local communities.

7. The benefits of tourism to be shared with local communities using the recommendations of the Task Force.